

Personal History of Stephen Hawking

Stephen William Hawking was a British theoretical physicist and cosmologist, internationally recognized for his contribution to science, being one of the most renowned scientists of the century. Stephen William Hawking was born exactly on the 300th anniversary of Galileo's death. His parents were Frank Hawking, a research biologist who worked as a parasitologist at the National Institute of Medical Research in London, and Isabel Hawking.

The physicist had amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, an incurable, neurodegenerative disease that paralyzes the body's muscles without affecting cognitive functions. The scientist detected the disease when he was just 21 years old. In 1985, he underwent a tracheostomy after contracting pneumonia in Switzerland, and since then he has had to use a voice synthesizer to communicate. He gradually lost the movement of his legs and arms, as well as the rest of his musculature. When the disease was discovered, doctors gave the physicist no more than two or three years to live. But for the sake of science, Hawking

ended up living 76 years, more than 40 of them devoted to his incredible career.

Stephen has won several awards, including one of the most important in the United States, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. In addition to being a member of the Royal Society of Arts and the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, appointed by Pope John Paul II himself.

To stay active, avoiding the syndrome of incarceration, the scientist made use of motorized chairs, voice synthesizers and other accessories, and complex systems, which gave life to his thoughts.

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